

## Letter from Alexander Melville Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, February 28, 1876, with transcript

February 28th, 76. (No envelope) My dear Al.,

Many happy returns of your birthday, though this should reach you before the third! In reference to your wish for my presence "during March", I would like to gratify you if possible. I have explained before why I could not undertake Examination of your class, and to appear merely to hand the diplomas to the members seems quite unnecessary. If it were to benefit you I would go at any inconvenience, but I do not see how any such effect would be produced in this way. I should like to see you in your professional quarters and to see your pupil-handiwork. I am anxious to become acquainted with your future wife, but to gratify these desires would be very inconvenient, and I should therefore deny myself. However let me know in time the date on which you wish me to give the diplomas, and I may possibly be with you. I don't yet speak definitely, that no arrangements may be made dependent on me. The only time you mentioned was during March. I hope your Washington complications will be set right in the end, but they are as strange as they are vexatious. Gordon Brown told your Uncle (on the 24th) that Gray's new patent had been completed at Ottawa, and he feared in England. Hoping the best for your interests, and with love from all to self and Mabel, Your affectionate father,

Alex. Melville Bell.